

QUESTIONS CONCERNING

2018/19 WELSH CUP

2018/19 CAMBRIA CUP

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Q12 What are the rules for the final of the Welsh Cup?

A12 The final will be held on Saturday 17th August 2019 at 11.00 am finishing at or before 8.00 pm at

Llanbadarn Fawr & District Community Centre (Old School)
Crossgates
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 6RE

There will be no charge at the final this year. Unless a team finds itself unable to attend there will be six teams, three from North Wales and three from South Wales. The details shown below will be amended suitably if only five teams attend and may also be amended on the day by the director if deemed necessary for the running of the event. To see how the teams are getting on the overall results can be found under Welsh Cup on the WBU results site at

<http://www.bridgewebs.com/wbureresults/>

The format will be a double round robin with teams playing every other team twice. There will be a session of five stanzas of six boards followed by a refreshment and scoring break, and then a further session of five stanzas of six boards, making 60 boards in all. Scoring is by imps converted to Victory Points on a six board scale, so the maximum possible score will be 200 VPs. One team from South Wales and one team from North Wales will be undefeated. They will receive a bonus of 5 VPs at the start.

During each session there will be a further scoring break. Teams may change direction and/or personnel at each scoring break. Six man teams may also change personnel at the end of a stanza if the director has been previously advised.

The winners of each stanza will receive Green Points on the EBU scale and there will be overall Green Points based on finishing position. The winners will be the Welsh Cup holders for a year. There will be prizes for the top two teams. Teams of fewer than six may add people up to six after the last knockout round but only if the new players do not improve the perceived standard of the team, ie it is normally only acceptable if they are added because the team could not play otherwise. It will be a Level 4 event.

Q11 What are the rules for the final of the Cambria Cup?

A11 The final will be held on Sunday 18th August 2019 at 11.00 am finishing at or before 6.30 pm at

Llanbadarn Fawr & District Community Centre (Old School)
Crossgates
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 6RE

There will be no charge at the final this year. Unless a team finds itself unable to attend there will be five teams, two from North Wales and three from South Wales. The details shown below will be amended suitably if only four teams attend and may also be amended on the day by the director if deemed necessary for the running of the event. To see how the teams are getting on the overall results can be found under Cambria Cup on the WBU results site at <http://www.bridgewebs.com/wbureresults/>

The format will be a triple round robin with teams playing each other three times. There will be three sessions each of four stanzas of four boards with a refreshment and scoring break after the first, and a scoring break after the second. This makes 48 boards in all. Scoring is by aggregate converted to Victory points on a four board scale, so the maximum possible score will be 240 VPs. One team from South Wales and one team from North Wales will be undefeated. They will receive a bonus of 6 VPs at the start.

Teams may change direction and/or personnel at each scoring break, but no pair may play who has played in an earlier session. Each team must always have one man and one woman playing.

The winners of each stanza will receive Green Points on the EBU scale and there will be overall Green Points based on finishing position. The winners will be the Cambria Cup holders for a year. There will be prizes for the top two teams. Teams of fewer than six may increase their numbers to a maximum of six. It will be a Level 4 event.

Q10 What are the rules for additions and substitutions in Welsh Cup?

A10 Unless you have already qualified for the final (no-one has yet!) you may add any member of the WBU at any time up to a maximum of six players for any reason so long as they have not played in any other Welsh Cup team this year.

Unless you have already qualified for the final (no-one has yet!) you may replace any member in your team who has not played so far with any other member of the WBU at any time for any reason so long as they have not played in any other Welsh Cup team this year.

Once you have qualified for the final you may only replace or add players so long as they do not demonstrably strengthen the team.

Any additions or substitutions should be notified to me with their WBU numbers. If there is any difficulty in notifying me earlier it is acceptable that I first hear of this with the result of a match.

Q9 What are the rules for additions and substitutions in Cambria Cup?

A9 You may add any member of the WBU at any time up to a maximum of six players for any reason so long as they have not played in any other Cambria Cup team this year.

You may replace any member in your team who has not played so far with any other member of the WBU at any time for any reason so long as they have not played in any other Cambria Cup team this year.

Any additions or substitutions should be notified to me with their WBU numbers. If there is any difficulty in notifying me earlier it is acceptable that I first hear of this with the result of a match.

Q8 If it were stipulated that halfway was Newtown then I think you would get entries from the North: we played an away match in Llandrindod Wells, hardly halfway.

A8 Matches are generally played by arrangement and while the organisers might intervene where two teams cannot agree such an arrangement would be unlikely to be accepted. Halfway between Llandudno and Cardiff is somewhere between Newton and Llandrindod Wells anyway.

But does this matter? The arrangements for next year are designed to make nearly all the matches regionalised so it is expected that North Wales teams will play against North Wales teams until late in the competitions, similarly with South Wales teams.

Q7 In 2017/18 the final will have to be replayed if the undefeated team loses. Is this the right approach, and what alternative can you suggest?

A7 It is true that most teams will be unhappy at having arranged a final, usually involving a lot of travelling and all the attendant problems, and then have to do it again. One solution is a finals day (see earlier answers). If that is not acceptable then instead of a Welsh Cup final of 64 boards, perhaps they could play 48 boards, and if the undefeated team is losing they play 16 more boards.

It is less obvious how to do this in the Cambria – perhaps only 36 boards, and play an extra 12. Maybe a finals day is more important for the Cambria.

Q6 You have mentioned a finals day. Do you have a date in mind?

A6 The intention is to have two finals days, one for the Welsh Cup, one for the Cambria Cup, over the weekend of 17th/18th August 2019. That weekend seems completely free from both Welsh events and English events. Several Welsh players play in English events. It is also not the bank holiday weekend. Time to put it in your diaries!

Q5 Despite regionalising the early rounds there will be quite a lot of travelling in the later rounds. This may lead to delays and concessions. Have you a solution?

A5 One of the advantages of a final day (see answer A3) is that it removes a lot of long journeys for the successful teams and means that the competition will be finished in a year.

Q4 How about seeding the more successful teams so that they miss the first two rounds to avoid playing too many matches (see Q3)?

A4 While possible this has the following snags. First, there will still be too many matches overall (as in Q3). Second the timescale would not be solved. Third, no-one ever agrees on who should be seeded and there would be interminable arguments. So it will not be tried now.

Q3 Despite the small number of teams a team that loses a match but does not lose another one might have to play seven or eight matches to win these events. Is this right? Is there time in a year?

A3 These are serious problems for the more successful teams. Assuming no snags the best solution seems to be to play a final on one day with one undefeated team and four once defeated (these numbers may vary slightly).

Q2 A few years back the first round was played in triples so each team played two matches. Are you going to try this again?

A2 No, not this year. It will be double elimination but run properly to avoid travelling. The triples were not a total success with teams not allowed to concede and other problems.

Q1 This year too many matches were conceded. How will you avoid this in future?

A1 Teams are encouraged to register six players. All the earlier and shorter matchers will be regionalised so it should be possible to play them on weekday evenings.